(ii) Need to build up adequate buffer stock to meet the commitment under Public Distribution System (PDS) and Welfare Schemes;

(iii) Lower than normal production of wheat;

(iv) Low level of procurement of wheat in the Central Pool.

Electrification of railway tracks

*414. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of his Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks;

(b) whether it is not proper to have railway tracks electrified to the optimum; and

(c) how many proposals for electrification of railway tracks have been recommended from Rajasthan and what is the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Electrification projects are considered primarily on economic considerations excepting projects justifies as operational necessity. The criterion/guidelines being followed in this regard are as under:

(i) Each electrification project will be justified on Rate of Return, which should exceed 14% with the Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method.

(ii) In certain specific cases, electrification will be justified on considerations of operational flexibility.

(iii) While proposing electrification of a route, the rail network in the region in totality should be considered to include, if necessary, short route lengths, which would otherwise remain non-electrified and reduce operational flexibility.

(c) Following three proposals for electrification of railway track have been recommended by Government of Rajasthan during last two years. The status are as under:

Sl.No.	Section	Status
1.	Bina-Kota	The electrification work has been sanctioned and included in Railway Budget 2006-07 at a cost of Rs. 175.72 crore.
2.	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur	Not agreed.
3.	Ratlam-Neemuch-Chhitorgarh	Not agreed.

Operation of goods trains by private sector

†*415. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to entrust the operation of goods trains to private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the private sector companies from whom request have been received for this purpose;

(d) the amount of revenue Government are liekly to receive as a result thereof; and

(e) the details of the study conducted to assess the loss likely to be suffered by railway network due to implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

International agreements on growth of deep sea fishing industry

*416. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have signed various international agreements which are inimical to the growth of the domestic deep sea fishery sector;

(b) the details of various agreements related to fisheries which have been signed with other nations and international organizations by Government from 1996;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.